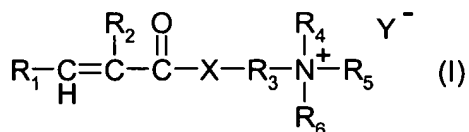


1. (original): An aqueous formulation comprising a cationic polymer and wherein the cationic polymer is formed from
 - a) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one cationic monomer
 - b) at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of more than 50 ppm by the weight of component a)
 - c) and at least one chain transfer agent.
2. (original): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1 wherein the cationic polymer is added to the formulation while in the form of particles, which have a volume average size of below 10 microns.
3. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein component a) ~~comprises~~ is formed from 30 to 100 wt-%, based on the total weight of component a), of at least one cationic monomer and 0 – 80 wt-% of at least one monomer, which is non-ionic or anionic.
4. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cationic monomer(~~s~~) of component a) is ~~(are)~~ a compound(~~s~~) according to formula (I)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

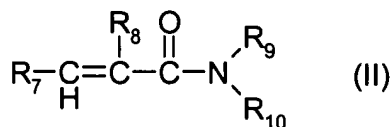
R₃ is C₁-C₄alkylene,

R₄, R₅ and R₆ are independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

X is -O- or -NH- and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogen sulphate or methosulfate.

5. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the non-ionic monomer(~~s~~) of component a) is ~~(are)~~ N-vinyl pyrrolidone and/or a compounds of formula (II)



wherein

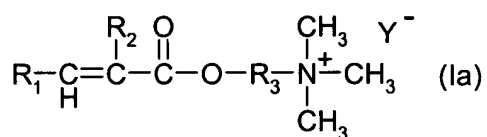
R₇ signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R₈ signifies hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl, and

R₉ and R₁₀ signify independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl.

6. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, ~~such as polyallylsaccharose and pentaerythritol triallylether.~~
7. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.
8. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ included in the range of 50 – 1200 ppm (based on the component a).
9. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ included in the range of 500 – 1000 ppm (based on the component a).
10. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid, lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.

11. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ present in a range of from 10 to 50000 ppm (based on the component a).
12. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ present in a range of from 100 – 10000 ppm (based on the component a).
13. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the formulation comprises 0.005 to 15 wt-% of the cationic polymer.
14. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the formulation comprises 0.01 to 10 wt-% of the cationic polymer.
15. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the formulation contains
- 0.01 – 5 wt-% of a cationic polymer and wherein the cationic polymer is formed from at least one compound of formula (Ia)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₃ is C₁-C₂alkylene and

Y is Cl; Br or I, and

b) at least one cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of 50 – 1200 ppm (based on the component a), and

c) at least one chain transfer agent selected from the group consisting of mercaptanes, mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount an amount of 1000 – 9000 ppm (based on the component a).

16. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to claim 15, wherein at least one cross-linking agent is included in an amount of 500 – 1000 ppm (based on the component a).

17. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to claim 15, wherein at least one cross-linking agent is included in an amount of 700 – 900 ppm (based on the component a).

18. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to claim 15, wherein at least one chain transfer agent is present in an amount of 2000 – 5000 ppm (based on the component a).

19. (currently amended): An aqueous formulation according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which is formulated for the use as a household cleaning composition such as general purpose cleaners for cleaning hard surfaces, acid household cleaners (bath), WC cleaners or laundry care products.

20. (currently amended): A fabric softener composition comprising

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of cationic quaternary ammonium salts; tertiary fatty amines having at least one C₈-C₃₀alkyl chains, carboxylic acids having 8 to 30 carbons atoms and one carboxylic group per molecule; esters of polyhydric alcohols; fatty alcohols; ethoxylated fatty alcohols; alkyphenols; ethoxylated alkyphenols; ethoxylated fatty amines; ethoxylated monoglycerides; ethoxylated diglycerides; mineral oils and/or polyols;
- B) 0.005 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the cationic polymer according to claim 1—18;
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) water to 100 %.

21. (currently amended): A fabric softener composition according to Claim 20 comprising

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of ~~the~~ a fabric softener;
- B) 0.005 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the cationic polymer;
- C) 0 to 20 % wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and

- D) 0 to 5% wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume, and
- E) water to 100 %.

22. (currently amended): A fabric softener composition according to ~~Claim 20~~ claim 21 comprising

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener;
- B) 0.005 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the cationic polymer;
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives;
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,
 - ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
 - iii) mixtures thereof, and
- F) water to 100 %.

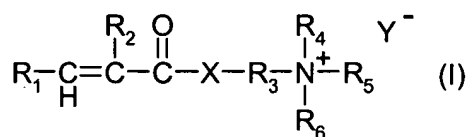
23. (original): A fabric softener composition according to Claim 20, wherein the customary additives are alcohols; polyhydric alcohols; amphoteric and nonionic surfactants; oxyethylated fatty alcohols; hydrogenated and ethoxylated castor oil; alkyl polyglycosides; fatty alcohols; fatty acid esters; fatty acids; ethoxylated fatty acid glycerides; or fatty acid partial glycerides; inorganic or organic salts; non-aqueous solvents; pH buffers; perfumes; dyes; hydrotropic agents; antifoams; anti redeposition agents; enzymes; optical brighteners; antishrink agents; stain removers; germicides; fungicides; antioxidants; corrosion inhibitors; dye fixing agents; dye transfer inhibitors; wrinkle recovery agents and/or wet soiling reduction agents.

24. (original): A cationic polymer formed from

- a) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one cationic monomer
- b) at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of more than 600 ppm by the weight of component a);
- c) and optionally at least one chain transfer agent.

25. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to Claim 24, wherein the component a) comprises 30 to 100 wt-% of one cationic monomer and 0 – 80 wt-% of a monomer, which is non-ionic or anionic.

26. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to Claim 24 ~~or 25~~, wherein the cationic monomer(s) of component a) is ~~(are)~~ a compound(s) according to formula (I)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

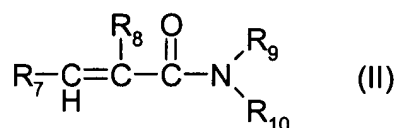
R₃ is C₁-C₄alkylene,

R₄, R₅ and R₆ are independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

X is –O– or –NH– and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogen_sulphate or methosulfate.

27. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24–26, wherein the non-ionic monomer(s) of component a) is ~~(are)~~ N-vinyl pyrrolidone and/or compounds of formula (II)



wherein

R₇ signifies hydrogen or methyl,

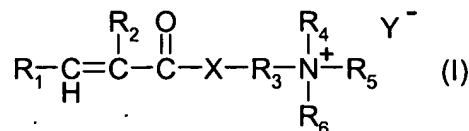
R₈ signifies hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl, and

R₉ and R₁₀ signify independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl.

28. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24–27, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-

methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, ~~such as polyallylsaccharose and pentaerythritol triallylether.~~

29. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—28, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.
30. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—29, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ included in the range of 650 – 1200 ppm (based on the component a).
31. (cancelled).
32. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—29, wherein the cross-linking agent(s) of component b) is ~~(are)~~ included in the range of 700 – 900 ppm (based on the component a).
33. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—32, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid, formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.
34. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—33, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ present in a range of from 10 to 50000 ppm (based on the component a).
35. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—34, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is ~~(are)~~ present in a range of from 100 – 10000 ppm (based on the component a).
36. (currently amended): A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 24—35, formed from
a) 30 to 100 wt-% of at least one compound according to formula (I)



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

R₃ is C₁-C₄alkylene,

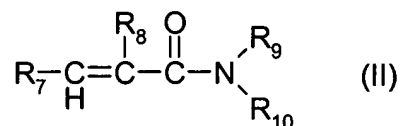
R₄, R₅ and R₆ are independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

X is -O- or -NH- and

Y is Cl; Br; I; hydrogen sulphate or methosulfate, and

0 – 80 wt-% of N-vinyl pyrrolidone and/or

at least one compound of formula (II)



wherein

R₇ signifies hydrogen or methyl,

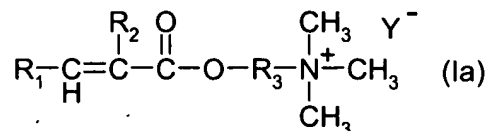
R₈ signifies hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl, and

R₉ and R₁₀ signify independently from each other hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

- b) at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of 700 – 900 ppm (based on the component a) selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, ~~such as polyallylsaccharose and pentaerythritol triallylether and~~
- c) from 0 to 50000 ppm (based on the component a), ~~more preferably 100 – 10000 ppm (based on the component a)~~ of at least one chain transfer agent selected from the group consisting of ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.

37. A cationic polymer according to ~~any one of claims claim~~ claim 24–36, formed from

- a) 30 to 100 wt-% of at least one compound according to formula (Ia)



wherein

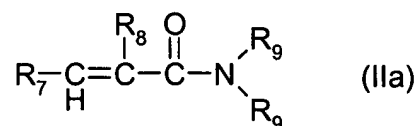
R₁ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₂ is hydrogen or methyl,

R₃ is C₁-C₂alkylene and

Y is Cl; Br or I, and

0 – 80 wt-% of at least one compound of formula (IIa)



wherein

R₇ signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R₈ signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

R₉ signifies hydrogen; methyl; ethyl or propyl,

- b) 700 – 900 ppm (based on the component a) of at least one cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers, ~~such as polyallylsaccharose and pentaerythritol triallylether,~~ and
- c) ~~from 0 to 50000 ppm (based on the component a), more preferably 100 – 10000 ppm~~ (based on the component a) of at least one chain transfer agent selected from the group consisting of ~~mercaptanes~~ mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.